Jammu-Pathankot double track rail line

4412. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state since when the double track rail line from Jalandhar to jammu *via* Pathankot has been under construction; how much amount has been spent on it, how much distance has been covered,how much distance is yet to be covered and how much amount is still required for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : The work of doubling between Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi section (211.26 kms.) was included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98 with the proviso that the work would be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. Physical work on this project will start only after the requisite clearances become available. The expected expenditure likely to be incurred on this project is about Rs. 335 crores. No expenditure has been incurred on this work so far.

Expenditure in Railway Departments

4413. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any estimates relating to expenditure in various Railway departments, out of the total amount of annual expenditure; and

(b) if so, the percentage of expenditure incurred on general administration, Railway operations, Railway maintenance, production by the Railways and other social obligations during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expenditure details incurred on general administration, Railway operations, Railway maintenance, staff welfare and other activities as percentage of Ordinary Working Expenses during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:-

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
General Administration	5.52%	5.48%	5.40%
Railway Maintenance	34.04%	33.32%	33.48%
Railway Operations	52.24%	52.53%	52.49%
Staff Welfare	4.21%	4.20%	4.30%
Other expenditure including security, compensation claims, catering etc.	3.99%	4.47%	4.33%

The above does not include payment on pension. The various pension and other retirement benefits to pensionable employees are met out of the Pension Fund.

The production in six production units of the Railways, and the various workshops on the zonal Railways, in financial terms, during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is as under:-

	(*Rs. in cr.*)
1997-98	4323
1998-99	4818
1999-2000	4936

Social obligations do not constitute a separate item of expenditure. The term refers basically to the losses arising from incomplete recovery of costs on certain services.

Jammu Poonch Rail Line

4414. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey for Jammu to Poonch rail line has already been conducted; if so, whether this survey was to be authenticated by Government; and

(b) whether Government propose to authenticate this surveyed track without further loss of time, to connect these extreme sensitive border districts of Rajouri and Poonch with the rest of the country; if so, by when this project would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) As per the updated survey report of November 2000, the cost of construction of new line from Jammu to Poonch (223 kms.) has been assessed as Rs. 4574.15 crs. with a negative rate of return. In view of constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the project, it has not been considered feasible to take up this project.

Introduction/Withdrawal of Trains

4415. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains introduced and the number of trains withdrawn from different Railway Zones during last three years;